

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: September 12, 2013

SUBJECT: Requesting Feedback and Direction on the Proposed Recommendations for Addressing the Assembly Bill 526 Update from the Gang Issues Standing Committee

AGENDA ITEM: I

RESOURCE PERSON: Oscar E. Villegas

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

Issue: Earlier this year, the Board's Gang Issues Standing Committee was tasked with the responsibility for developing recommendations to address the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 526 (Ch. 850, Statutes of 2012). This agenda item is intended to present the committee's recommendations for the Board's consideration and discussion. Staff intends to return in November for final adoption of the recommendations.

Background: In the Fall of 2012, Governor Brown signed AB 526 which requires the BSCC to:

- move towards consolidating the grant application processes for delinquency, intervention and prevention funds for grant programs with similar program purpose,
- incentivize comprehensive regional partnerships, and
- by January 1, 2014, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) must develop funding allocation policies that ensure that within three years no less than 70 percent of funding for "gang and youth violence suppression, intervention, and prevention programs and strategies is used in programs that utilize promising and proven evidence-based principles and practices."

In March of this year the Board established a Gang Issues Standing Committee chaired by Board member David Maggard. One of the tasks assigned to this committee was to draft recommendations for the Board to address the requirements of AB 526. The committee met for the first time in May, and again in August where committee members unanimously agreed that by adopting the following language the BSCC could address the more time sensitive issue of the bill to develop funding allocation policies by January 1, 2014. The resulting policy recommendations will set the course for BSCC to ensure that 70% of the grant funding for "gang and youth violence suppression, intervention, and prevention programs and strategies is used in programs that utilize promising and proven evidence-based principles and practices (EBP).

In summary, the committee unanimously agreed to present the following two recommendations:

- 1. The BSCC must clearly define "evidence-based programs, practices and strategies."** *Clear definitions and specific examples will help to distinguish the difference between programs, practices, and strategies. This will also help BSCC and the recipient of these funds ensure consistent and uniform application.*
- 2. The BSCC must clearly identify which of its grant funding streams will be included when determining the 70% threshold.** *Since the legislation specifically excludes the two largest state funding sources, the Juvenile Justice and Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds from consideration, it is recommended that the*

graphic below be used for identifying the remaining grant programs that will be included when measuring the 70% threshold:

BSCC Grant Funding Streams	Amount	Included in 70% (Yes/No)
California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP)	\$9.2 mil.	Yes
Proud Parenting	\$800,000	Yes
Title II Block Grant	\$5.8 mil.	Yes*
Juvenile Assistance Block Grant (JABG)	\$4.9 mil.	Yes*
Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)	\$18.5 mil	To be determined
Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)	\$84 mil	No – excluded per AB 526
Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)	\$93 mil	No – excluded per AB 526
		* Only funds allocated for direct services, not system improvement.

The above recommendations were also shared with the Board’s Juvenile Justice Standing Committee and the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

In addition, staff has begun exploring the possibility of addressing the requirements of AB 526 within the larger context of BSCC’s statutory requirements and as part of our recently adopted strategic plan. The BSCC is responsible to identify, promote, provide technical assistance, and make publically available data and information regarding evidence-based programs, practices, and strategies; however, these mandates don’t include the specific percentage or timeline thresholds found in AB 526. To continue to develop BSCC’s management and staff efforts to address the EBP-related mandates, staff initiated conversations with Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati, an expert in evidence-based correctional practices, to explore ways to not only address the EBP requirements of AB 526 but to implement a plan to sustain our efforts to identify and promote evidence-based programs, provide technical assistance, and develop and maintain a resource “clearinghouse.” Staff believes that using Dr. Latessa to guide this larger, more comprehensive implementation plan will support the path needed to ensure compliance with AB 526 and help accomplish other BSCC EBP objectives.

It is staff’s intent to include regular updates to the Board on the status of implementation as it achieves certain objectives from the agency’s Strategic Plan.

Recommendation/Action Needed: Staff is seeking Board feedback and direction on the recommendations offered by the Gang Issues Standing Committee.

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